

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9314

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3850

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, UN, IN, BG

SUBJECT: INDIAN COUNTER EFFORT TO BANGLADESH COMPLAINT AT
THE UN ON FARAKKA BARRAGE

REF: USUN 3567

1. INDIAN PERM REP RIKHI JAIPAL CALLED ON GOVERNOR SCRANTON
SEPTEMBER 17TH TO PRESENT HIS GOVERNMENT'S VIEWPOINT ON
THE FARAKKA BARRAGE DISPUTE WITH BANGLADESH. IN A RELAXED
BUT INFORMATIVE MANNER HE TRACED THE HISTORY OF THE ARGUMENT,
GOING BACK TO PLANS OF 19TH CENTURY BRITISH ENGINEERS AT
CALCUTTA.

2. HE REITERATED INDIA'S BASIC GOOD-WILL TOWARDS BANGLADESH
IN THIS AFFAIR, AND FELT THE BANGLADESH ARE ACTING IN AN
EMOTIONAL MANNER AND ATTEMPTING TO POLITICIZE THE ISSUE.
THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT, HE EMPHASIZED, DOES NOT CONSIDER THIS
TO BE A POLITICAL PROBLEM, BUT IT CAN BE TACKLED ON A
COMMON-SENSE, HUMANITARIAN BASIS. HE REGRETTED THAT
THE RECENT BANGLADESH MISSION IN NEW DELHI TOOK A
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NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD OBTAINING RESOLUTION OF THE

DISPUTE. HE NOTED THAT THE INDIAN PRIME MINISTER REMARKED THAT THE BENGALI ARE NOT IN A MIND TO NEGOTIATE AND SHOULD BE ALLOWED TIME TO COOL OFF.

3. INDIA, JAIPAL SAID, IS NOT CERTAIN EXACTLY WHAT BANGLADESH EXPECTS TO ACCOMPLISH BY TAKING THE ISSUE TO THE UN, AND THE INDIANS ARE INCLINED TO VIEW THIS EFFORT AS PROPAGANDA FOR HOME CONSUMPTION. IT IS INDIA'S POSITION THAT THE UNGA HAS NO LEGAL GROUNDS TO EXAMINE THIS QUESTION. INDIA OFFICIALLY, THEREFORE, HAS NO PREFERENCE AS TO WHICH UN COMMITTEE SHOULD HANDLE THE AFFIR,BUT IT SEEMS THAT THE SECOND COMMITTEE WOULD BE MORE LOGICAL,JAIPAL REMARKED.

4. GOVERNOR SCRANTON REPLIED THAT THE U.S. HAS NO OBJECTION TO THE INSCRIPTION BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT ALL NATIONS HAVE A RIGHT TO INSCRIBE MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE TO THEM. OUR SUPPORT OF INSCRIPTION DOES NOT PREJUDGE U.S. STANCE ON SUBSTANCE OF THE ISSUE, HOWEVER. IN GENERAL THE U.S. FEELS THAT THE ISSUE COULD BE BETTER SOLVED IN BILATERAL TALKS BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLADESH. THE U.S. HOPES THE MATTER CAN BE RATIONALLY HANDLED.

5. THE MEETING ENABLED GOVERNOR SCRANTON TO INQUIRE ABOUT INDIA'S POSITION ON THE NORTH KOREA ISSUE DURING THE 31ST GA. JAIPAL EXPLAINED THE WELL-KNOWN INDIAN POSITION AND COMMENTED THAT AS OF THIS MOMENT INDIA WOULD ABSTAIN ON ANY RESOLUTION BY NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA. HE SEEMED NOT SYMPATHETIC TO THE NORTH KOREAN POSITION, AND COMMENTED UNFAVORABLY ON NORTH KOREAN BEHAVIOR AT THE RECENT COLOMBO CONFERENCE. HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE A WINDING UP OF UN MILITARY COMMAND INVOLVEMENT IN KOREA. SCRANTON

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